

We hope you enjoy this painting from the Pannett Art Gallery

A Fireside Read by Ernest Higgins Rigg (1868 – 1947)



This charming study of a young girl reading to an older woman by the fireside shows an effective use of light and shade and a great use of colour.

What do you enjoy reading?

Do you like to read fact or fiction, biography, short stories, poetry, magazines, newspapers, or something else?

Do you have a favourite book? What is it about?

Born in Bradford, Ernest Higgins Rigg studied at the Bradford School of Art.

He went on to enrol at the Académie Julian, a prestigious private art school in Paris, popular with British artists of the late 19th Century. Whilst there, he was influenced by the French Impressionists and was encouraged to paint En Plein Air, that is, painting outdoors, capturing views and colours in natural light. He used strong brush strokes and had a great sense of colour.

He exhibited widely, including at the Royal Academy, Manchester City Art Gallery, The Royal Society of British Artists and with the Yorkshire Union of Artists.

Ernest Rigg first visited Staithes in 1896, joining other young English impressionists painting in the area. He lived in Hinderwell for a while and was one of the founder members of the Staithes Group of Artists in 1901.

We are trying to find out more about the Staithes Art Club, (also known as Staithes Art Group or Staithes Group of Artists). If you have any stories or anecdotes about any of the members of the Staithes Art Group, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us by email: pannett.gallery@whitbytowncouncil.gov.uk

